40¢
#52
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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TM
MARVEL PREMIERE
FEATURING
BLACK PANTHER
TM
AT LAST! T'CHALLA BATTLES THE
KLAN!
02
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The trouble with most air guns is they're too big for smaller kids to handle.

That's why we make the Crosman® 788 BB Scout–the *only* pump-up BB gun designed especially for younger shooters.

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Which means that now, instead of having a little fun with a gun that's too big, you can have a lotta fun with a gun that's just right.

A LITTLE CROSMAN IS A LOTTA FUN.

Protect your valuable gun. Insist on Crosman Super BBs®.

Air guns must be used under adult supervision.

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE BLACK PANTHER!
STORY ED HANNIGAN
PENCILS JERRY BINGHAM
INKS GENE DAY
LETTERING DIANA ALBERS
COLORING BOB SHAREN
EDITING ROGER STERN
BOSS JIM SHOOTER
JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST
THE MAN ON THE SLAB WAS CALLED WINDEAGLE BY THOSE WHO GAVE HIM THE POWER TO RIDE THE AIR. NOW HE IS DEAD--
--AND THE BLACK PANTHER--KING OF THE WAKANDAS--IS CERTAIN HE KNOWS THE REASON WINDEAGLE WAS SLAIN, FOR IT WAS THE PANTHER THAT THE FLYING MAN WAS SENT TO ASSASSINATE! HIS FAILURE WAS PUNISHED WITH A GUNSHOT-SWIFT-DEATH!*
THERE ARE OTHER THINGS, HOWEVER, THAT THE BLACK PANTHER DOES NOT KNOW...
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS YOUNG MAN, LIEUTENANT?
THE BOYS UPSTAIRS ARE RUNNING A MAKE ON HIM RIGHT NOW IF HE'S GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD ANYWHERE IN THE FIFTY STATES, OUR COMPUTERS WILL FIND OUT!
LET'S GO. YOUR AIDE SEEMS TO BE BE GETTING EDGY, AND I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY...THIS ISN'T EXACTLY MY MY FAVORITE PLACE EITHER!
*LAST ISSUE--ROGER.

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WHY, TAKU--I HADN'T NOTICED. SURELY YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM A ROOMFUL OF CORPSES!
THE DEAD CAN TELL US THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO HEAR--OR SO THE SHAMANS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE!
IN THIS COUNTRY IT'S CALLED "FORENSIC MEDICINE", AND ITS PRACTICIONERS CLAIM LESS THAN MAGICAL KNOWLEDGE!
OBVIOUSLY, YOU NEVER WATCHED "QUINCY"!
WE RAN HIS PRINTS THROUGH THE COMPUTER, AND GOT QUITE A LOAD--NOTHING UNUSUAL, THOUGH!
HEY, THE GUY FLIES--WHAT MORE D'YOU WANT?
HIS FLYING WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH APPARATUS STOLEN FROM MY COUNTRY--THAT MUCH IS CLEAR...
...I'M MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT WHAT GOES INTO THE MAKING OF A THRALL OF THE DRAGON CIRCLE!
I DOUBT IF THIS'LL TELL YOU. SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY'S JOININ' CULTS THESE DAYS...
RT
LT
RI
LI
RUIZ, HECTOR SANTIAGO
ALIAS: WINDEAGLE
R2
L2
"...BUT HERE'S A PSYCHIATRIC REPORT: HECTOR SANTIAGO RUIZ, DOMINICAN EXTRACTION, ONLY SON OF POOR IMMIGRANTS... IN TROUBLE FROM THE START OF SCHOOL.
"SOUNDS LIKE A ZILLION OTHER NEW YORK KIDS.
"AFTER HE JOINED THE LOCAL STREET GANG, HE WAS BEYOND HELP. HIS TEACHERS, HIS PARENTS--NOBODY COULD HANDLE HIM
"THE GANG WAS JUST BASIC TRAINING--SOON HE STRUCK OUT ON HIS OWN, BECOMING AN ARMED ROBBER
"...AND A JUNKIE. PARDON MY CYNICISM, BUT THIS STORY'S SO TYPICAL!
"POLICE RECORDS DON'T EXACTLY GET INTO THE PERSONALITIES OF THEIR SUBJECTS. MAYBE THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM ANYWAY. HECTOR WAS IN AND OUT OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

"...UNTIL HE FINALLY HIT THE BIG TIME WITH AN ADULT CHARGE OF ASSAULT. HE WENT TO PRISON, WHERE HE TURNED OUT TO BE A MODEL INMATE.

"HE STARTED SEEING VISITORS FROM A "STREET MISSION" CALLED THE *SPIRITUAL LIGHT SOCIETY.*

"ANYWAY, HECTOR FOUND SOMETHING IN THE *SLS*, AND FINALLY WAS PAROLLED INTO THEIR CUSTODY. WE NEVER HEARD FROM HIM AGAIN."

TWO YEARS LATER THE SOCIETY GOT INVOLVED IN A POLITICAL SCANDAL, AND THEY MOVED DOWN SOUTH.

I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE *SLS* AND THE CULT OF THE DRAGON CIRCLE ARE ONE AND THE SAME!

AND THAT'S ABOUT IT--WHEN WE GET A MAKE ON THE MURDER WEAPON, WE'LL CALL YOU AT YOUR CONSULATE!

THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT--WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFICIENCY! GOOD DAY!

WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT, T'CHALLA?

NOT VERY MUCH, MONICA... BUT ENOUGH! THE SIZE OF WINDEAGLE'S WOUND INDICATES THAT THE RIFLE I FOUND WAS *NOT* THE MURDER WEAPON AT ALL.

A PARALLEL MAY EXIST BETWEEN THIS KILLING AND YOUR SISTER'S MURDER!

WE COULD LEARN SO MUCH MORE IF THEY'D ALLOW US TO APPLY WAKANDAN CRIMINOLOGY TECHNIQUES--!

WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE INADMISSIBLE IN OUR COURTS, TAKU.

PREE

ANYWAY, I'VE A REPORTER'S HUNCH THAT THE PANTHER WILL WANT TO DO HIS OWN INVESTIGATING, INDEPENDENT OF THE POLICE!

THAT GUESS REQUIRES NO SPECIAL INSTINCT, MR. TRUBLOOD. ANY CREATURE OF THE JUNGLE KNOWS THAT IT WOULD BE DISASTEROUS NOT TO BE AWARE OF ANY DANGERS THAT MIGHT EXIST WITHIN HIS TERRITORY.

IN FACT, THERE'S ONE PUZZLE WE SHALL BE DEALING WITH IMMEDIATELY...

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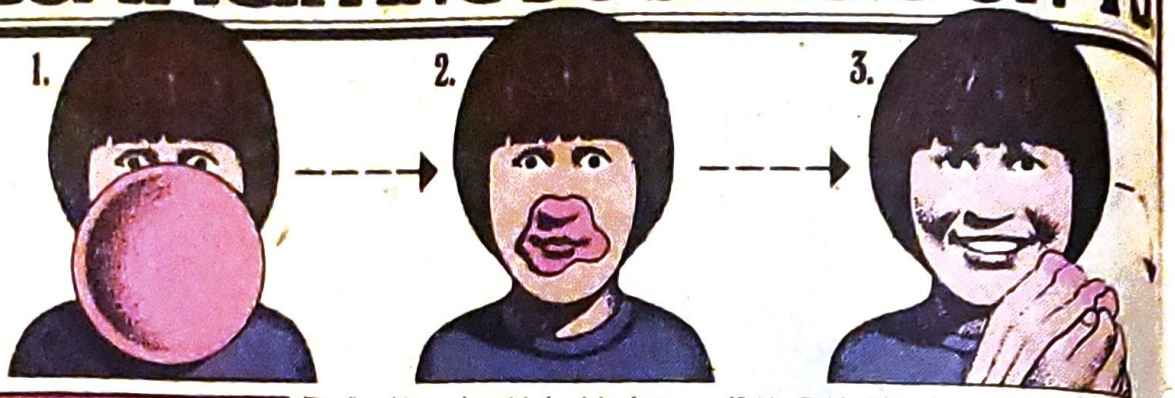
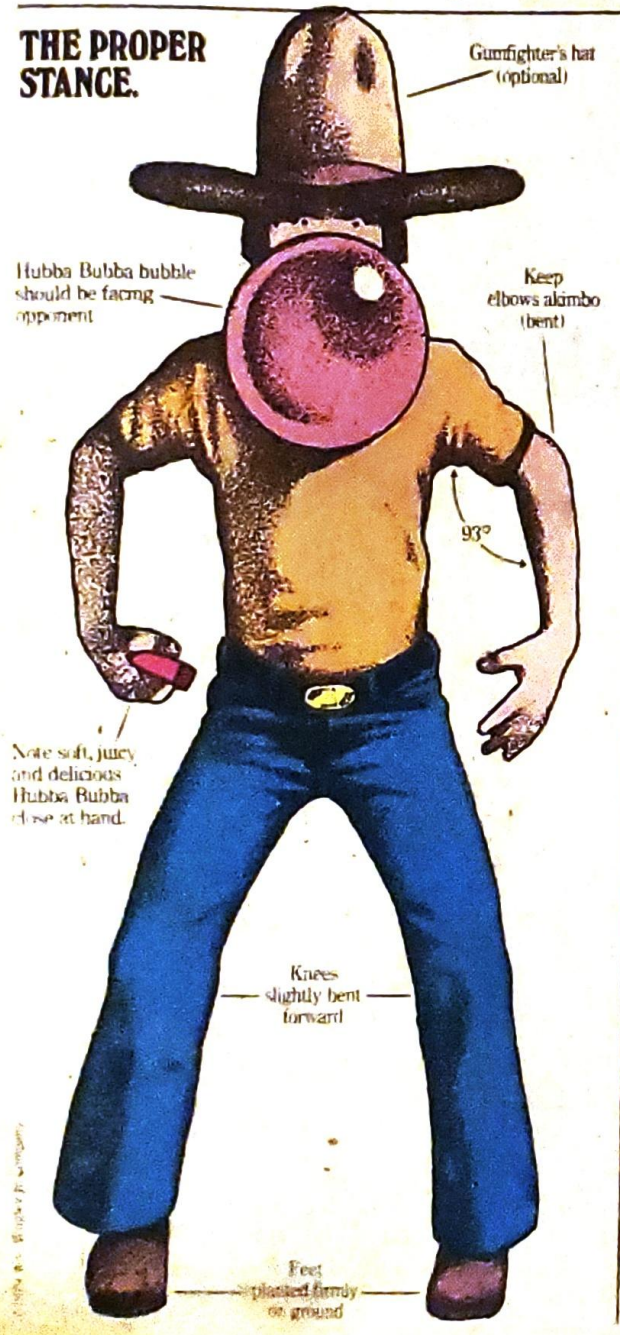
GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS



The first thing to do—pick the right chew: new Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill. (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.

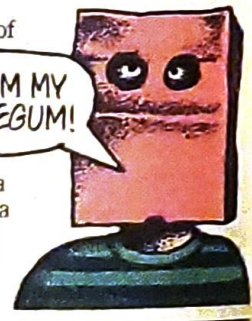

Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
93°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great big fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

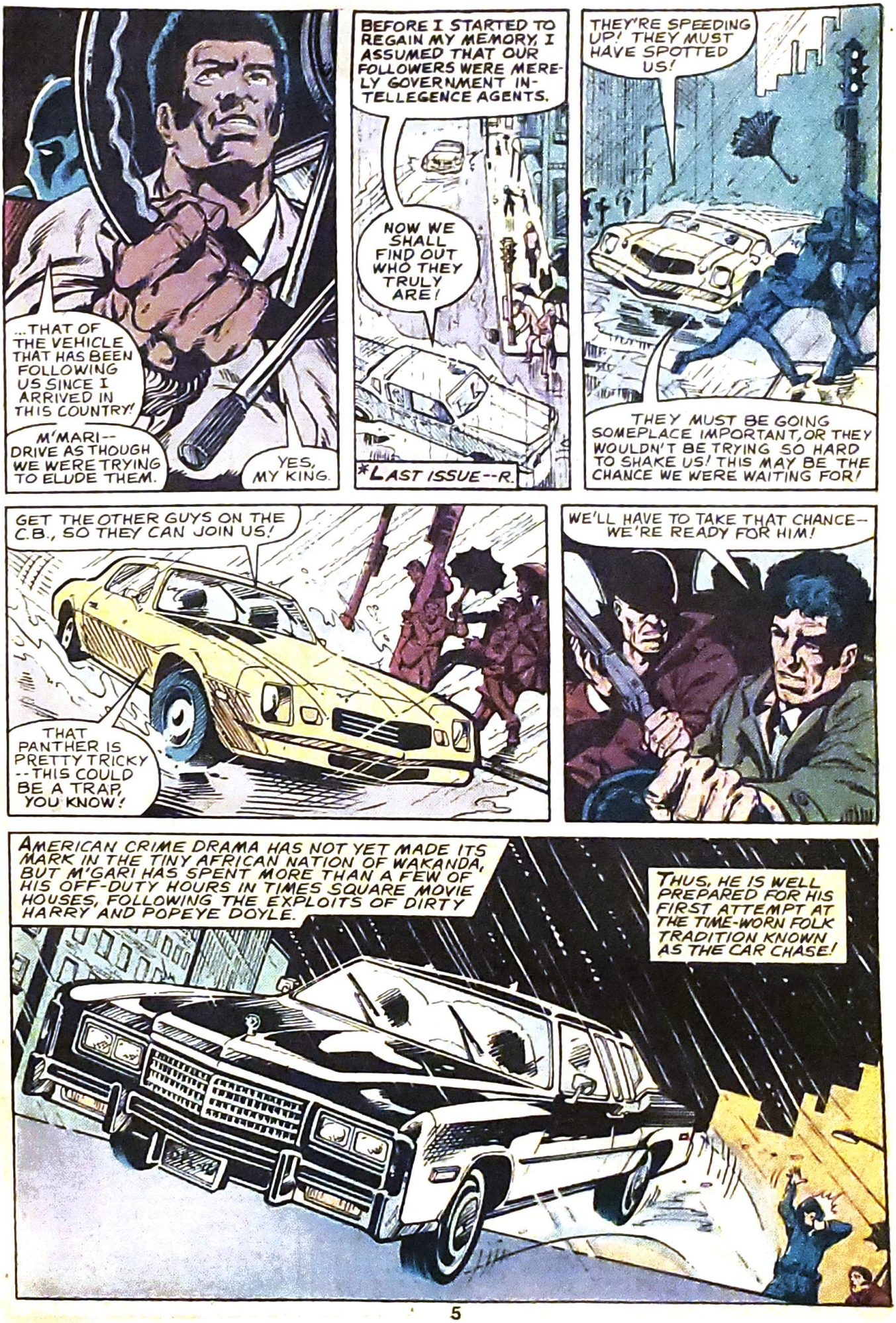
This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not new soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.



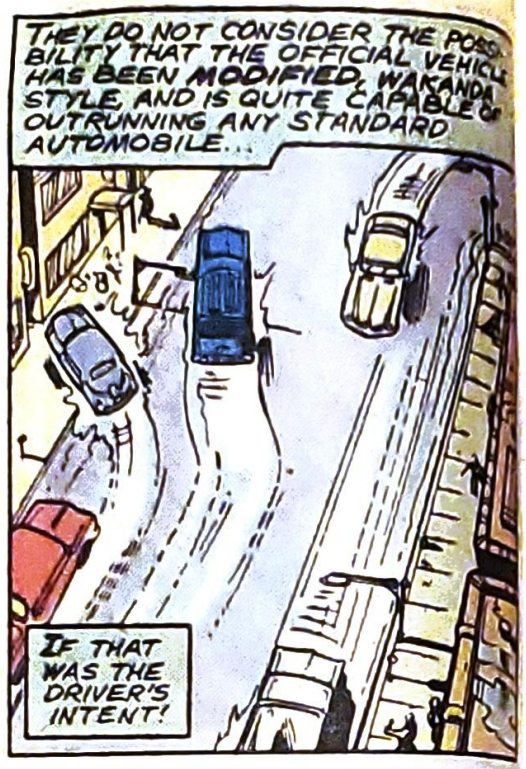
So pick up a pack of new Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

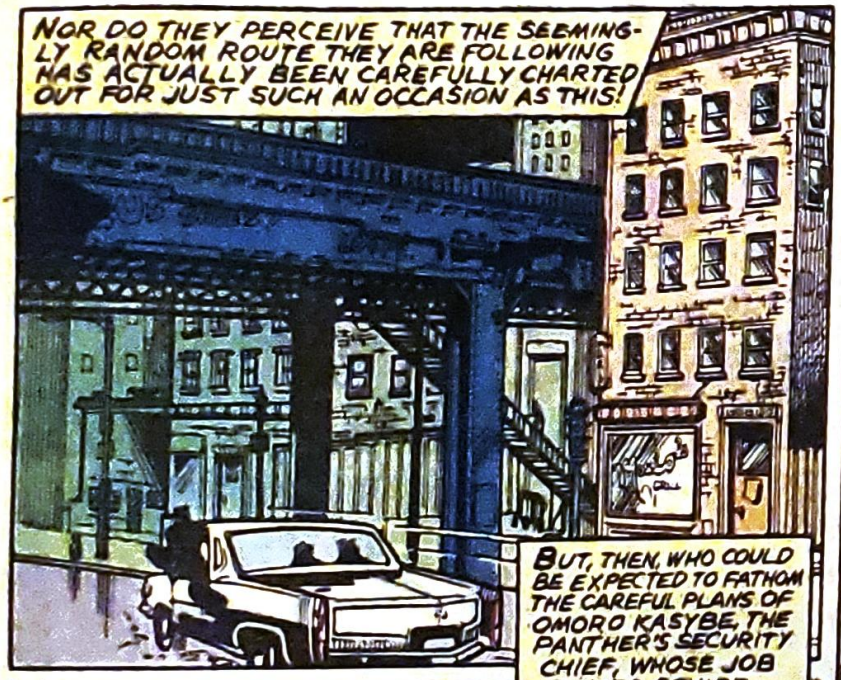
SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.

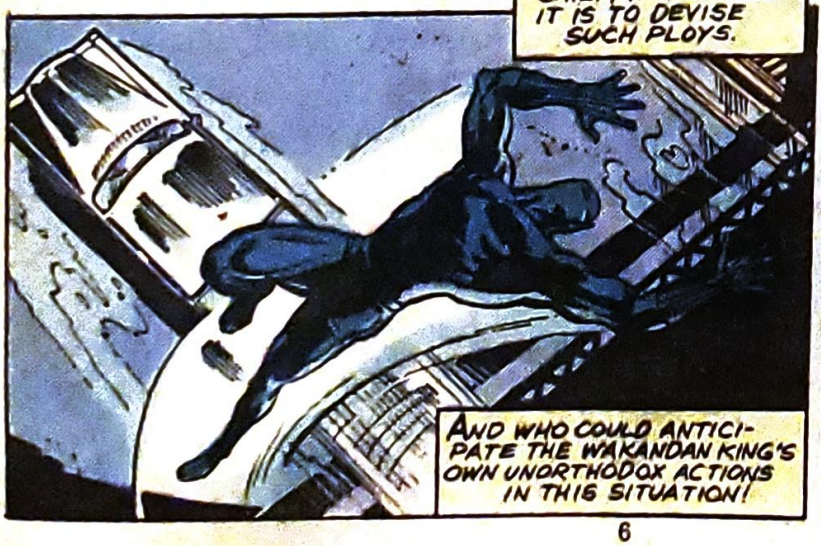
BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.


...THAT OF THE VEHICLE THAT HAS BEEN FOLLOWING US SINCE I ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY!
M'MARI--DRIVE AS THOUGH WE WERE TRYING TO ELUDE THEM.
YES, MY KING.
BEFORE I STARTED TO REGAIN MY MEMORY, I ASSUMED THAT OUR FOLLOWERS WERE MERELY GOVERNMENT INTELLEGENCE AGENTS.
NOW WE SHALL FIND OUT WHO THEY TRULY ARE!
*LAST ISSUE--R.
THEY'RE SPEEDING UP! THEY MUST HAVE SPOTTED US!
THEY MUST BE GOING SOMEPLACE IMPORTANT, OR THEY WOULDN'T BE TRYING SO HARD TO SHAKE US! THIS MAY BE THE CHANCE WE WERE WAITING FOR!
GET THE OTHER GUYS ON THE C.B., SO THEY CAN JOIN US!
THAT PANTHER IS PRETTY TRICKY--THIS COULD BE A TRAP, YOU KNOW!
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT CHANCE--WE'RE READY FOR HIM!
AMERICAN CRIME DRAMA HAS NOT YET MADE ITS MARK IN THE TINY AFRICAN NATION OF WAKANDA, BUT M'GARI HAS SPENT MORE THAN A FEW OF HIS OFF-DUTY HOURS IN TIMES SQUARE MOVIE HOUSES, FOLLOWING THE EXPLOITS OF DIRTY HARRY AND POPEYE DOYLE.
THUS, HE IS WELL PREPARED FOR HIS FIRST ATTEMPT AT THE TIME-WORN FOLK TRADITION KNOWN AS THE CAR CHASE!

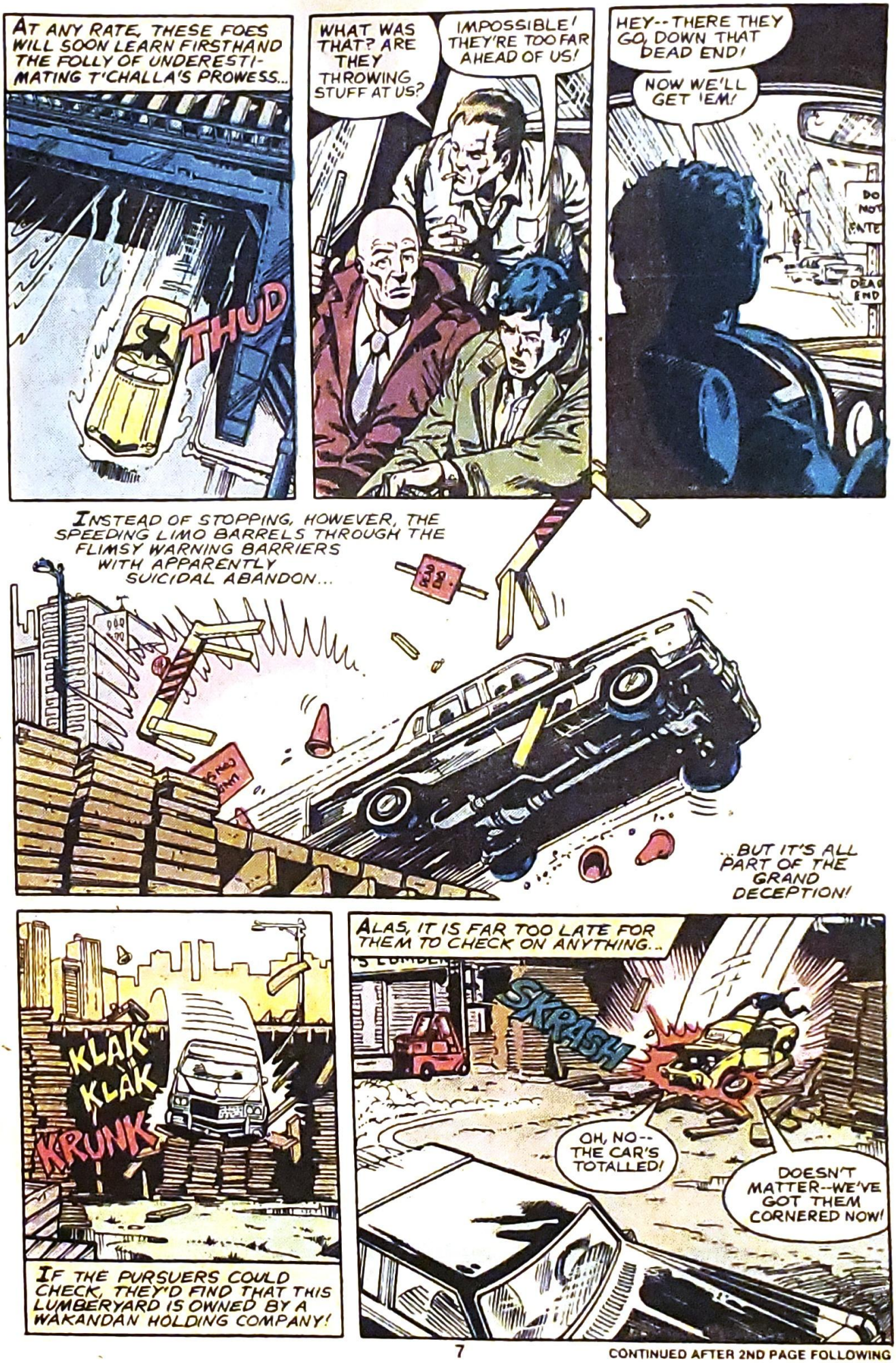
NOT THAT THE PURSUERS ARE EXACTLY UNVERSED IN THEIR NATIVE CULTURE RITUALS, EITHER...
IT'S A GOOD THING WE'RE ONLY CHASING A LIMO! THE WAY THAT GUY'S DRIVING, WE'D NEVER CATCH HIM IF HE HAD SOME HIGH-POWERED WHEELS!


THEY DO NOT CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE HAS BEEN MODIFIED, WAKANDA STYLE, AND IS QUITE CAPABLE OF OUTRUNNING ANY STANDARD AUTOMOBILE...
IF THAT WAS THE DRIVER'S INTENT!


NOR DO THEY PERCEIVE THAT THE SEEMINGLY RANDOM ROUTE THEY ARE FOLLOWING HAS ACTUALLY BEEN CAREFULLY CHARTED OUT FOR JUST SUCH AN OCCASION AS THIS!
BUT, THEN, WHO COULD BE EXPECTED TO FATHOM THE CAREFUL PLANS OF OMORO KASYBE, THE PANTHER'S SECURITY CHIEF, WHOSE JOB IT IS TO DEVISE SUCH PLOYS.


AND WHO COULD ANTICIPATE THE WAKANDAN KING'S OWN UNORTHODOX ACTIONS IN THIS SITUATION!

PERHAPS IF ONE STUDIED CENTURIES OF WAKANDAN LORE, THESE FEATS WOULD SEEM LESS SURPRISING... OR, MORE LIKELY, THE PROWESS OF THE PANTHER-KING WOULD BE DISMISSED AS MYTH OR EXAGGERATION.
BUT IT IS THIS COMBINATION OF STRATEGY AND SKILL-- WITH A TOUCH OF THE IMPOSSIBLE-- THAT HAS MADE THE DYNASTY SO FORMIDIBLE FOR UNCOUNTED YEARS OF AFRICAN HISTORY!


AT ANY RATE, THESE FOES WILL SOON LEARN FIRSTHAND THE FOLLY OF UNDERESTIMATING T'CHALLA'S PROWESS...
THUD
WHAT WAS THAT? ARE THEY THROWING STUFF AT US?
IMPOSSIBLE! THEY'RE TOO FAR AHEAD OF US!
HEY--THERE THEY GO, DOWN THAT DEAD END!
NOW WE'LL GET 'EM!
DO NOT ENTE
DEAD END
INSTEAD OF STOPPING, HOWEVER, THE SPEEDING LIMO BARRELS THROUGH THE FLIMSY WARNING BARRIERS WITH APPARENTLY SUICIDAL ABANDON...
...BUT IT'S ALL PART OF THE GRAND DECEPTION!
KLAK KLAK KRUNK
IF THE PURSUERS COULD CHECK, THEY'D FIND THAT THIS LUMBERYARD IS OWNED BY A WAKANDAN HOLDING COMPANY!
ALAS, IT IS FAR TOO LATE FOR THEM TO CHECK ON ANYTHING...
SKRASH
OH, NO--THE CAR'S TOTALLED!
DOESN'T MATTER--WE'VE GOT THEM CORNERED NOW!

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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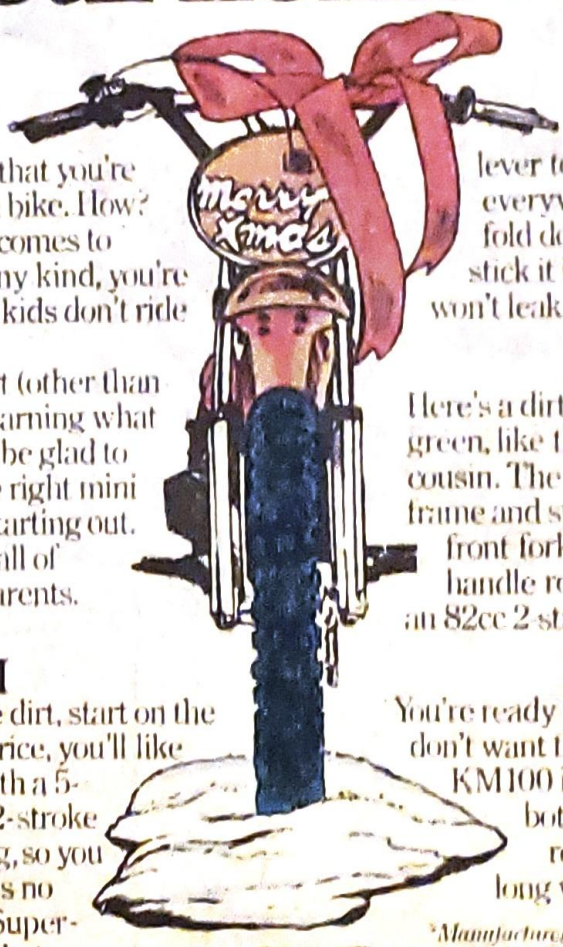
If you want a motorcycle for Christmas, do your homework.



Here's your first assignment. Prove to your parents that you're old enough to own your own bike. How?

Show them that when it comes to taking on responsibility of any kind, you're not a kid anymore. Because kids don't ride motorcycles.

Now, a good place to start (other than cleaning up your room), is learning what kind of bike to ask for. You'll be glad to know that Kawasaki has the right mini motorcycle for every rider starting out. We're here to tell you about all of them, so you can tell your parents.

Good luck.

KD80M

If you want to play in the dirt, start on the KD80M. Dad will like the price, you'll like everything else. It comes with a 5-speed transmission, a 79cc 2-stroke engine, and primary starting, so you can start in any gear. There's no premixing oil and gas, our Super-lube injection takes care of that.

KV75

This 3-speed trail bike is great for beginners. The KV75 has an automatic clutch, which means no clutch lever to bother with. And it goes everywhere with the family. Just fold down the handlebars, and stick it in the back of the car. (It won't leak gas or oil on the way.)

KDX80

Here's a dirt bike of another color. Lime green, like the KX80 mini, its racing cousin. The KDX80 has a motocross frame and suspension, leading axle front forks, and a 16" front wheel to handle rough ground. The engine is an 82cc 2-stroke reed valve.

KM100

You're ready to ride the streets. But you don't want to give up the dirt. Then the KM100 is your bike; it can handle both. And the 99cc 2-stroke rotary valve engine goes a long way on a tank of gas.

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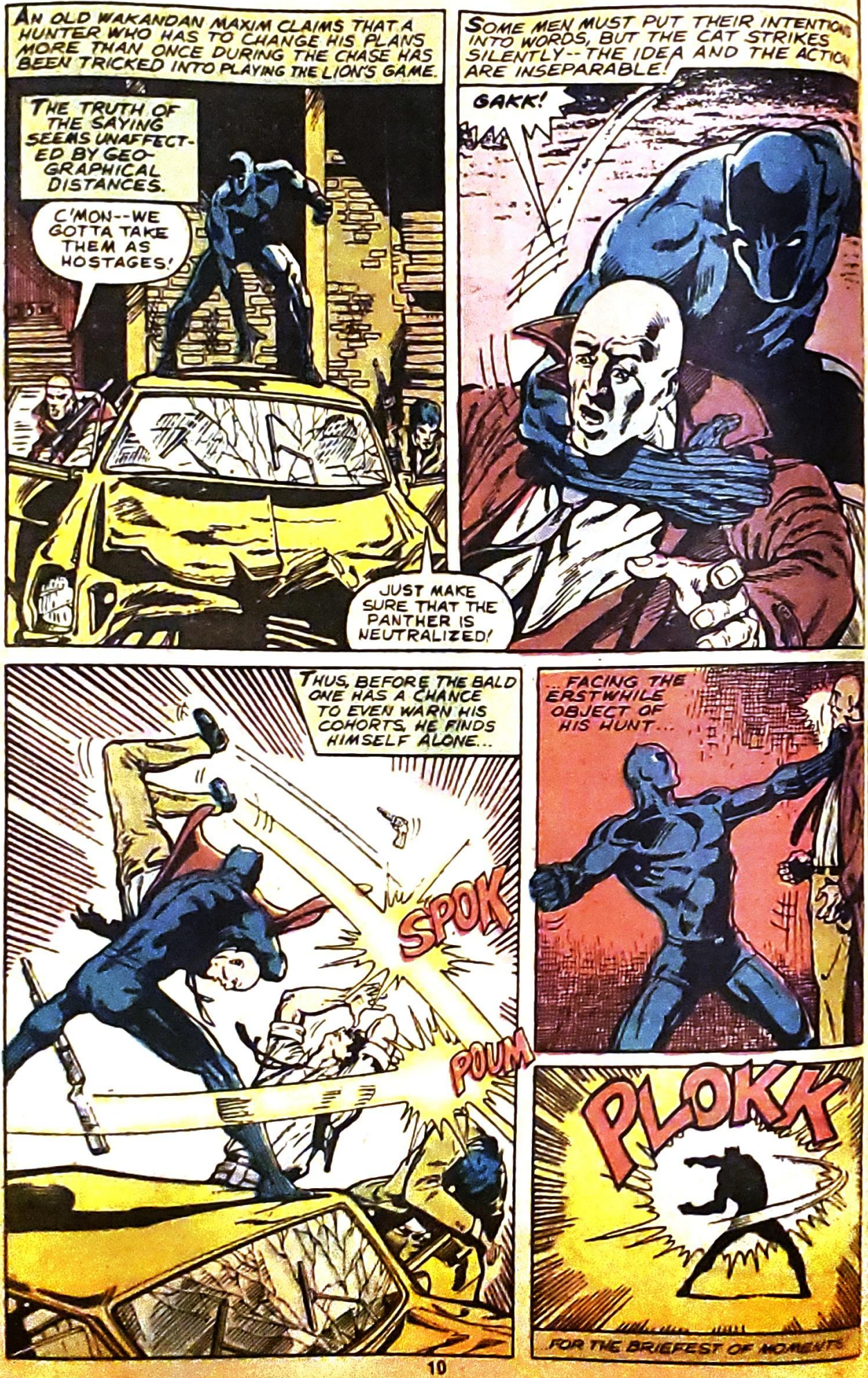
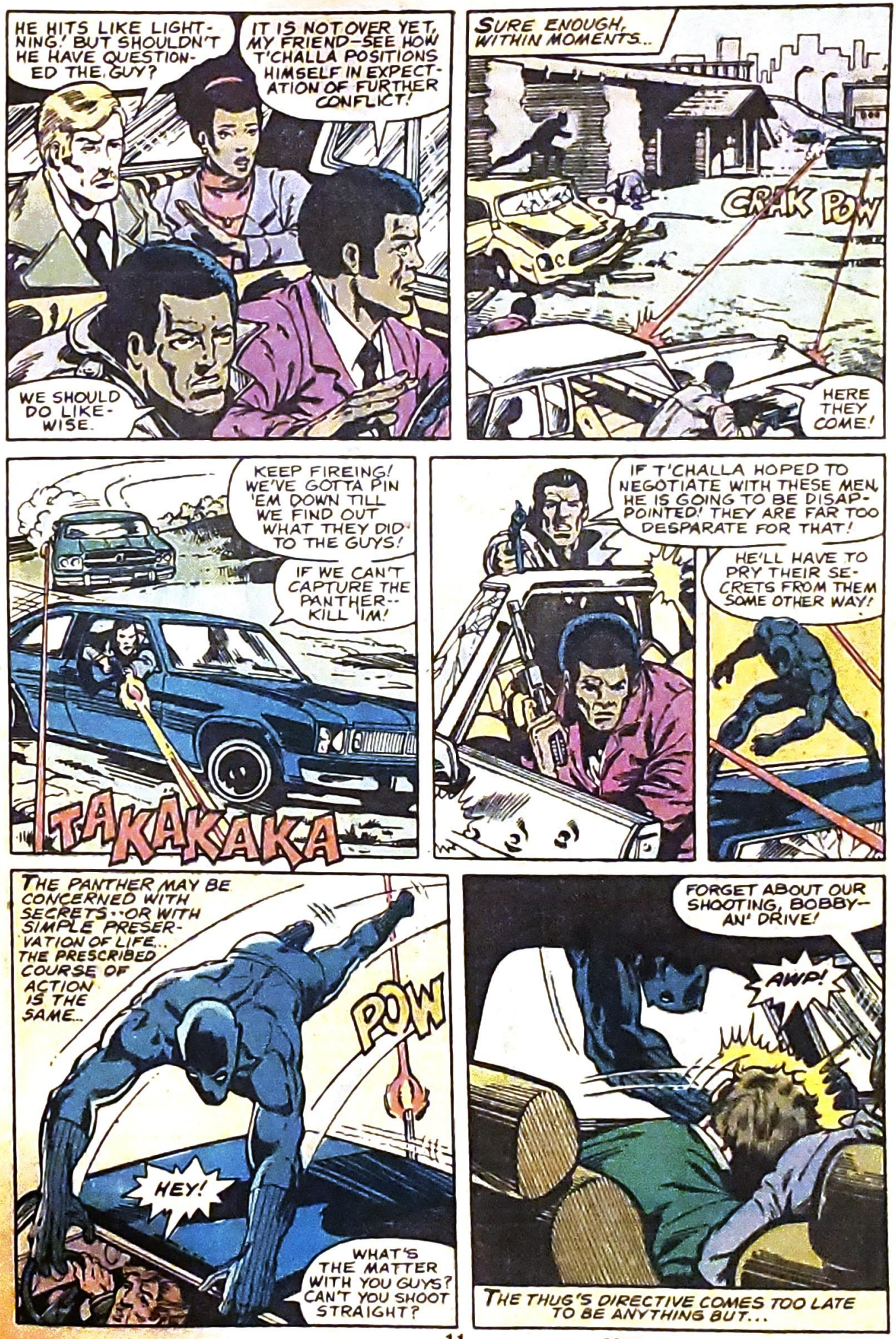
Kawasaki Minis

Don't let the good times pass you by.


AN OLD WAKANDAN MAXIM CLAIMS THAT A HUNTER WHO HAS TO CHANGE HIS PLANS MORE THAN ONCE DURING THE CHASE HAS BEEN TRICKED INTO PLAYING THE LION'S GAME.
THE TRUTH OF THE SAYING SEEMS UNAFFECTED BY GEOGRAPHICAL DISTANCES.
C'MON--WE GOTTA TAKE THEM AS HOSTAGES!
JUST MAKE SURE THAT THE PANTHER IS NEUTRALIZED!
SOME MEN MUST PUT THEIR INTENTIONS INTO WORDS, BUT THE CAT STRIKES SILENTLY--THE IDEA AND THE ACTION ARE INSEPARABLE!
GAKK!
THUS, BEFORE THE BALD ONE HAS A CHANCE TO EVEN WARN HIS COHORTS, HE FINDS HIMSELF ALONE...
SPOK
POUM
...FACING THE ERSTWHILE OBJECT OF HIS HUNT...
PLOKK
FOR THE BRIEFEST OF MOMENTS


HE HITS LIKE LIGHTNING.' BUT SHOULDN'T HE HAVE QUESTIONED THE GUY?
IT IS NOT OVER YET, MY FRIEND—SEE HOW T'CHALLA POSITIONS HIMSELF IN EXPECTATION OF FURTHER CONFLICT!
WE SHOULD DO LIKEWISE.
SURE ENOUGH, WITHIN MOMENTS...
CRAK POW
HERE THEY COME!
KEEP FIREING! WE'VE GOTTA PIN 'EM DOWN TILL WE FIND OUT WHAT THEY DID TO THE GUYS!
IF WE CAN'T CAPTURE THE PANTHER-- KILL 'IM!
TAKAKAKA
IF T'CHALLA HOPED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THESE MEN, HE IS GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED! THEY ARE FAR TOO DESPARATE FOR THAT!
HE'LL HAVE TO PRY THEIR SECRETS FROM THEM SOME OTHER WAY!
THE PANTHER MAY BE CONCERNED WITH SECRETS--OR WITH SIMPLE PRESERVATION OF LIFE... THE PRESCRIBED COURSE OF ACTION IS THE SAME...
POW
HEY!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS? CAN'T YOU SHOOT STRAIGHT?
FORGET ABOUT OUR SHOOTING, BOBBY— AN' DRIVE!
AWP!
THE THUG'S DIRECTIVE COMES TOO LATE TO BE ANYTHING BUT...

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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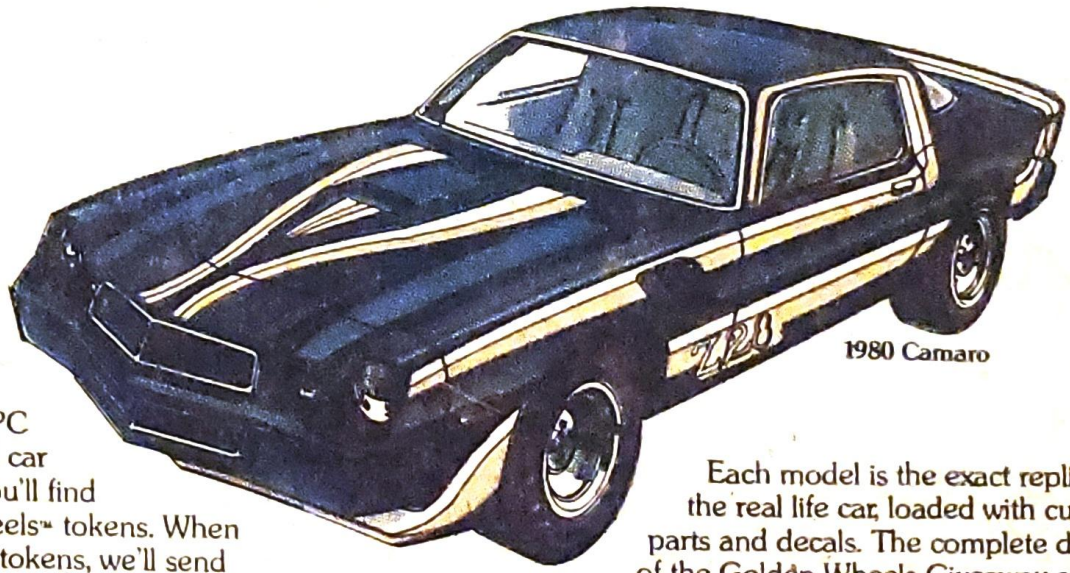

1980 Camaro

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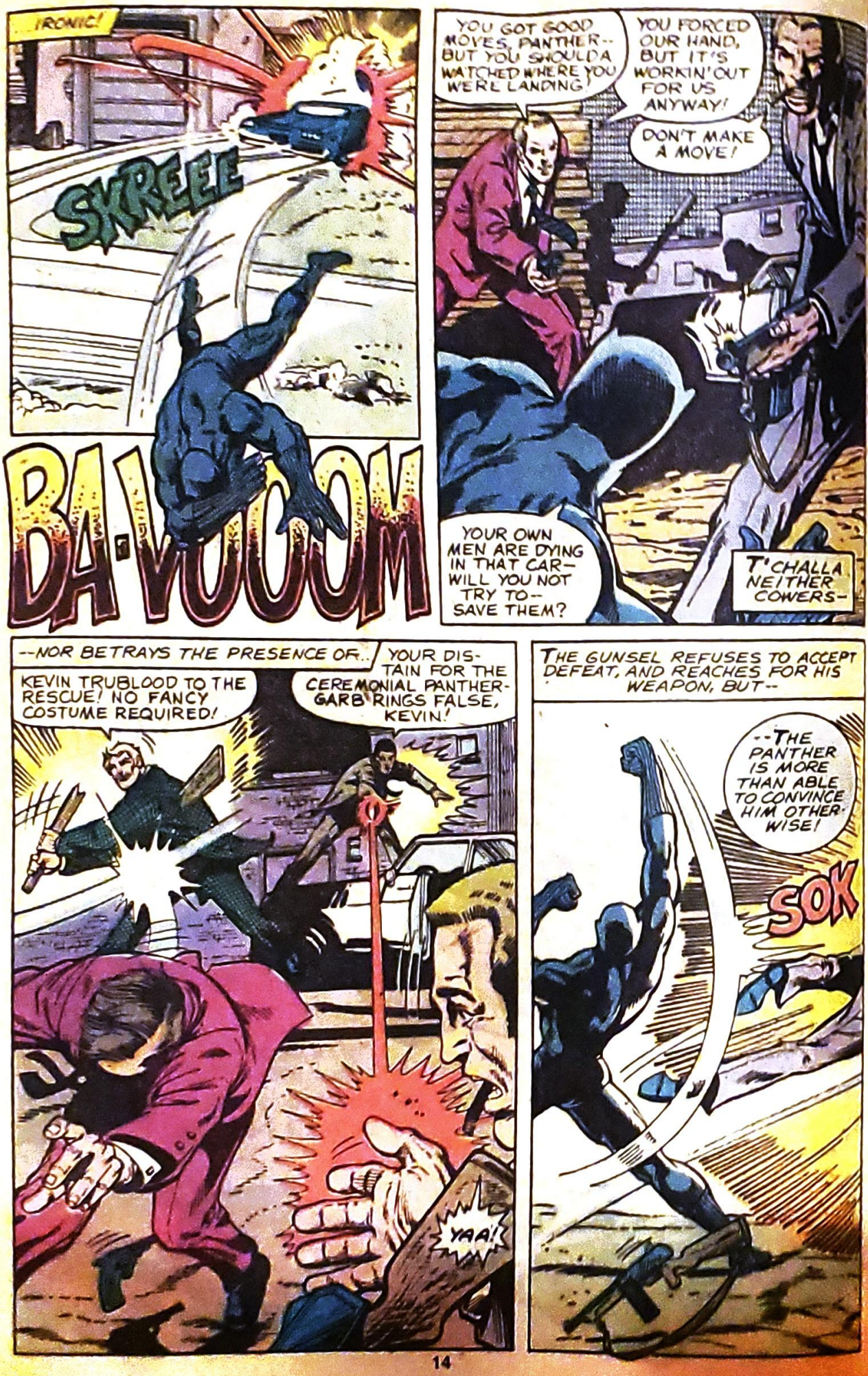
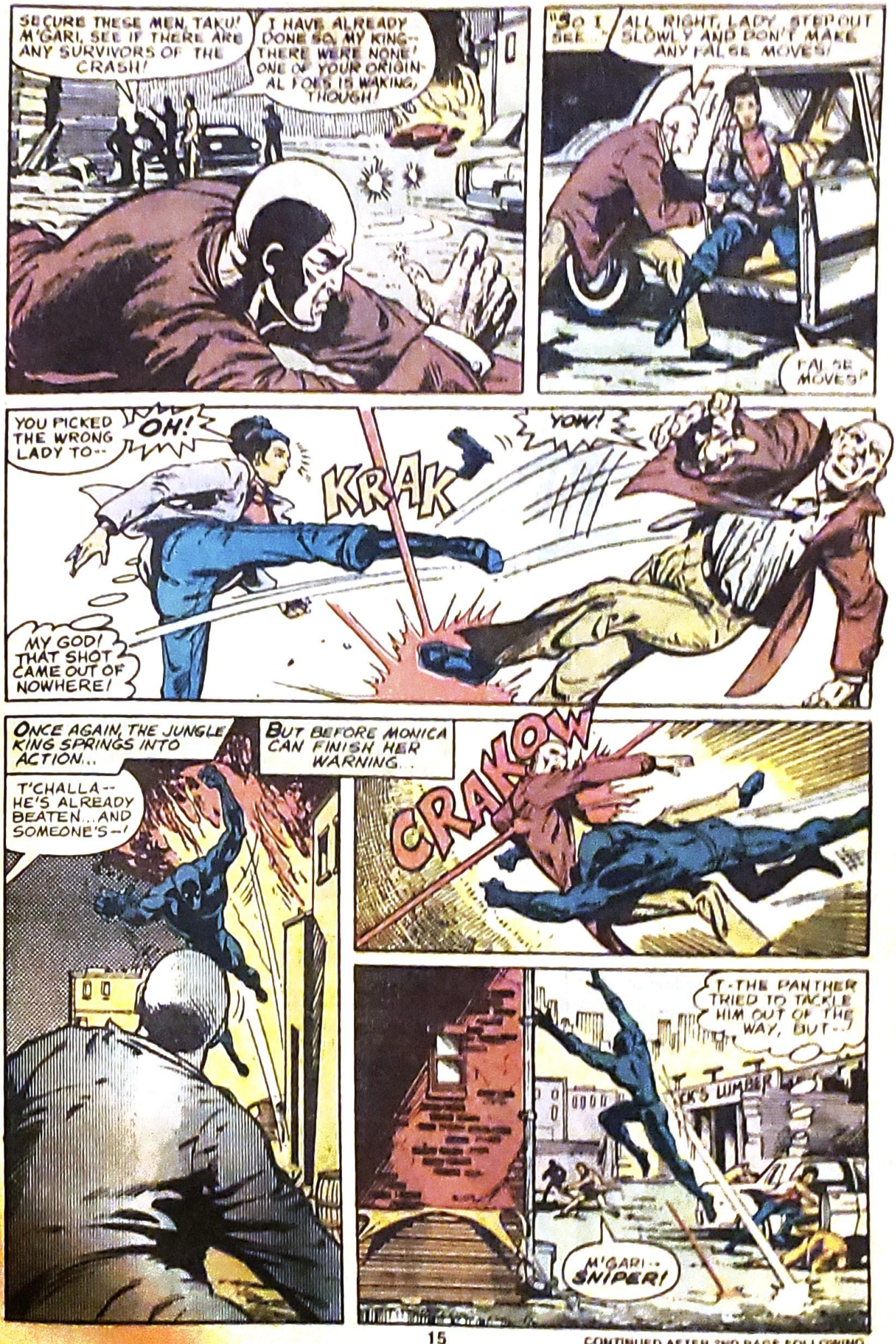

IRONIC!
SKREEE
BA-VOOOM
YOU GOT GOOD MOVES, PANTHER-- BUT YOU SHOULDA WATCHED WHERE YOU WERE LANDING!
YOU FORCED OUR HAND, BUT IT'S WORKIN' OUT FOR US ANYWAY!
DON'T MAKE A MOVE!
YOUR OWN MEN ARE DYING IN THAT CAR-- WILL YOU NOT TRY TO-- SAVE THEM?
T'CHALLA NEITHER COWERS-
--NOR BETRAYS THE PRESENCE OF..
YOUR DISTAIN FOR THE CEREMONIAL PANTHER-GARB RINGS FALSE, KEVIN!
KEVIN TRUBLOOD TO THE RESCUE! NO FANCY COSTUME REQUIRED!
YAA!
THE GUNSEL REFUSES TO ACCEPT DEFEAT, AND REACHES FOR HIS WEAPON, BUT--
--THE PANTHER IS MORE THAN ABLE TO CONVINCE HIM OTHERWISE!
SOK


SECURE THESE MEN, TAKU! M'GARI, SEE IF THERE ARE ANY SURVIVORS OF THE CRASH!
I HAVE ALREADY DONE SO, MY KING-- THERE WERE NONE! ONE OF YOUR ORIGINAL FOES IS WAKING, THOUGH!
"SO I SEE..."
ALL RIGHT, LADY, STEP OUT SLOWLY AND DON'T MAKE ANY FALSE MOVES!
FALSE MOVES?
YOU PICKED THE WRONG LADY TO--
OH!
KRAK
YOW!
MY GOD! THAT SHOT CAME OUT OF NOWHERE!
ONCE AGAIN, THE JUNGLE KING SPRINGS INTO ACTION...
T'CHALLA-- HE'S ALREADY BEATEN...AND SOMEONE'S--!
BUT BEFORE MONICA CAN FINISH HER WARNING...
CRAKOW
T-THE PANTHER TRIED TO TACKLE HIM OUT OF THE WAY, BUT--
M'GARI-- SNIPER!

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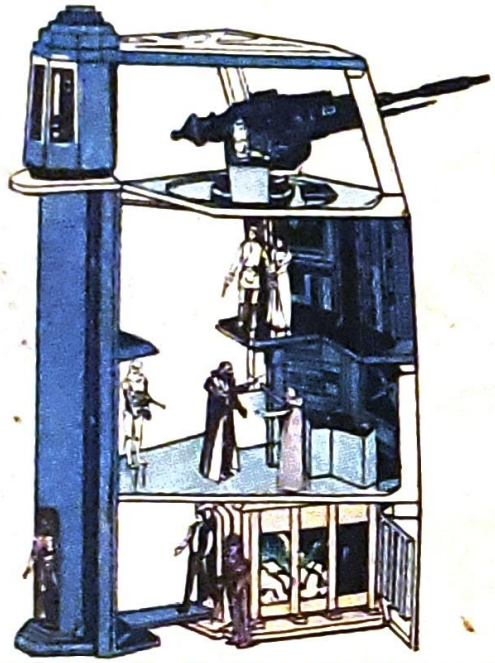
STAR WARS™

NOW, FRO
COMES THE K

STAR WARS™ DEATH STAR® SPACE STATION™



Four floors of Star Wars™ excitement! Including a moving trash compactor, clicking laser cannon, elevator, escape hatch and trash monster. *Assembly required.*

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Garbage compactor has moving wall!

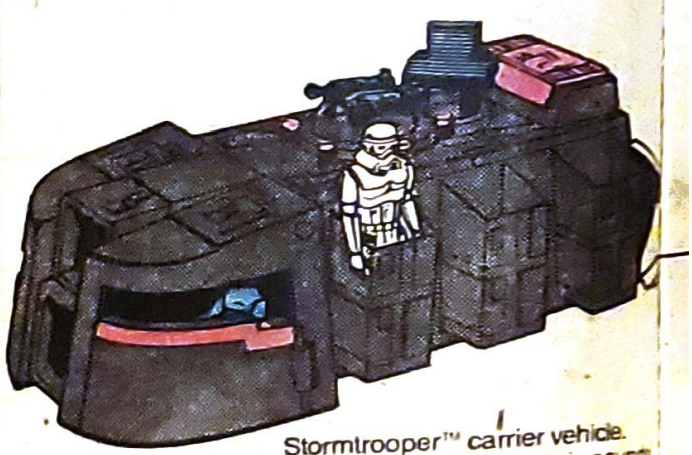
Elevator stops at all floors.

Push buttons and hear Star Wars™ sounds.

Movable Laser Gun™ and radar dish.

Place figure in driver's seat.

NEW STAR WARS™ IMPERIAL TROOP TRANSPORTER™



Stormtrooper™ carrier vehicle. Holds up to 11 action figures! Plays six sounds from Star Wars™ including R2-D2,™ C-3PO™ and Stormtrooper!™ *Assembly required.*

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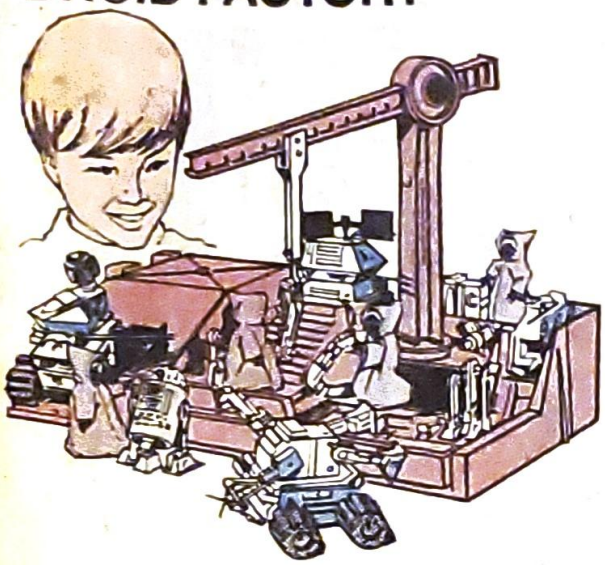

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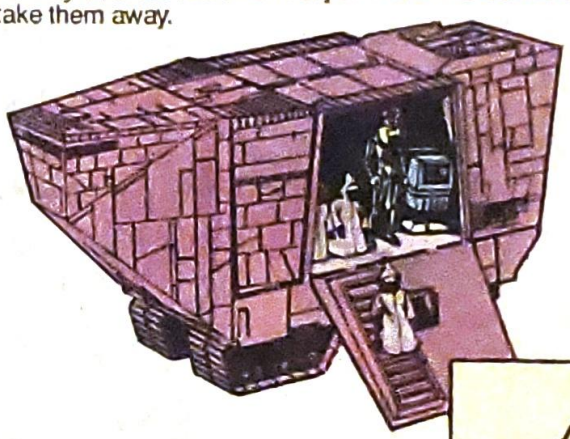
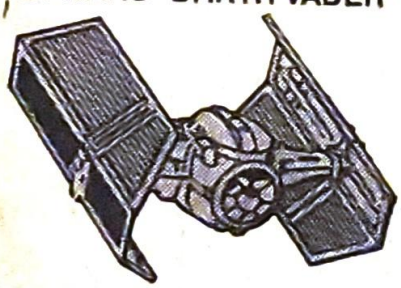


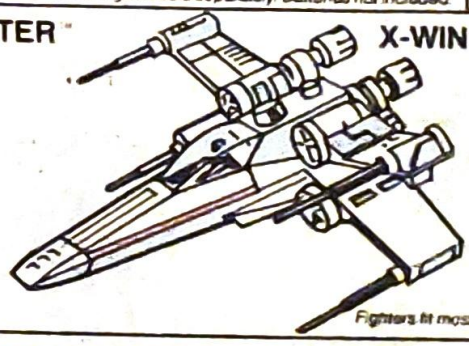
Radio control
—moves forward and backward.

Action figures sold separately. Batteries not included.

NEW STAR WARS™ DARTH VADER™ TIE FIGHTER™



X-WING FIGHTER™



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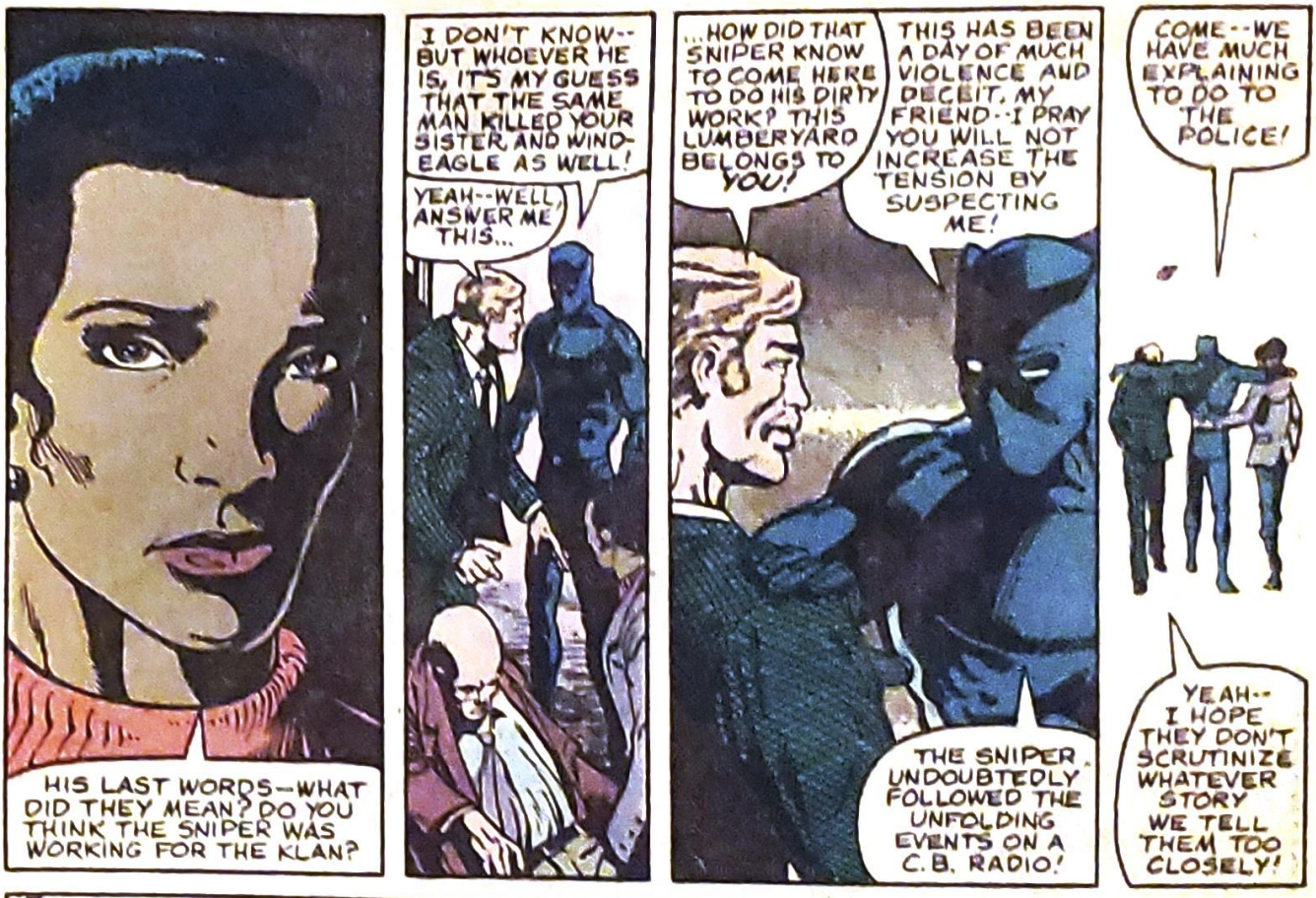
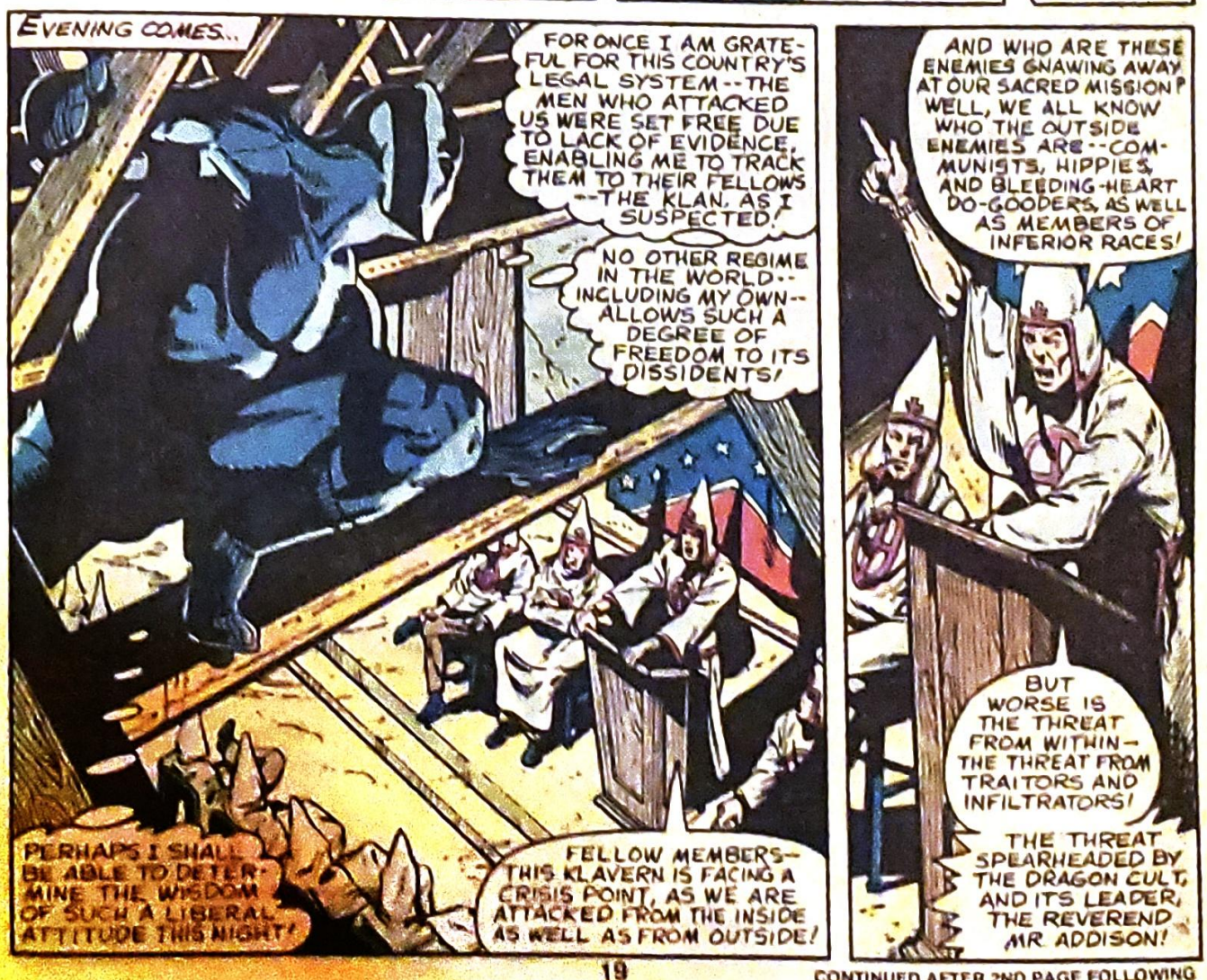

HIS LAST WORDS—WHAT DID THEY MEAN? DO YOU THINK THE SNIPER WAS WORKING FOR THE KLAN?
I DON'T KNOW--BUT WHOEVER HE IS, IT'S MY GUESS THAT THE SAME MAN KILLED YOUR SISTER AND WIND-EAGLE AS WELL!
YEAH--WELL, ANSWER ME THIS...
...HOW DID THAT SNIPER KNOW TO COME HERE TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK? THIS LUMBERYARD BELONGS TO YOU!
THIS HAS BEEN A DAY OF MUCH VIOLENCE AND DECEIT, MY FRIEND--I PRAY YOU WILL NOT INCREASE THE TENSION BY SUSPECTING ME!
THE SNIPER UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOWED THE UNFOLDING EVENTS ON A C.B. RADIO!
COME--WE HAVE MUCH EXPLAINING TO DO TO THE POLICE!
YEAH--I HOPE THEY DON'T SCRUTINIZE WHATEVER STORY WE TELL THEM TOO CLOSELY!


EVENING COMES...
FOR ONCE I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS COUNTRY'S LEGAL SYSTEM--THE MEN WHO ATTACKED US WERE SET FREE DUE TO LACK OF EVIDENCE, ENABLING ME TO TRACK THEM TO THEIR FELLOWS--THE KLAN, AS I SUSPECTED!
NO OTHER REGIME IN THE WORLD--INCLUDING MY OWN--ALLOWS SUCH A DEGREE OF FREEDOM TO ITS DISSIDENTS!
PERHAPS I SHALL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE WISDOM OF SUCH A LIBERAL ATTITUDE THIS NIGHT!
FELLOW MEMBERS--THIS KLAVERN IS FACING A CRISIS POINT, AS WE ARE ATTACKED FROM THE INSIDE AS WELL AS FROM OUTSIDE!
AND WHO ARE THESE ENEMIES GNAWING AWAY AT OUR SACRED MISSION? WELL, WE ALL KNOW WHO THE OUTSIDE ENEMIES ARE--COMMUNISTS, HIPPIES, AND BLEEDING-HEART DO-GOODERS, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF INFERIOR RACES!
BUT WORSE IS THE THREAT FROM WITHIN--THE THREAT FROM TRAITORS AND INFILTRATORS!
THE THREAT SPEARHEADED BY THE DRAGON CULT, AND ITS LEADER, THE REVEREND MR ADDISON!

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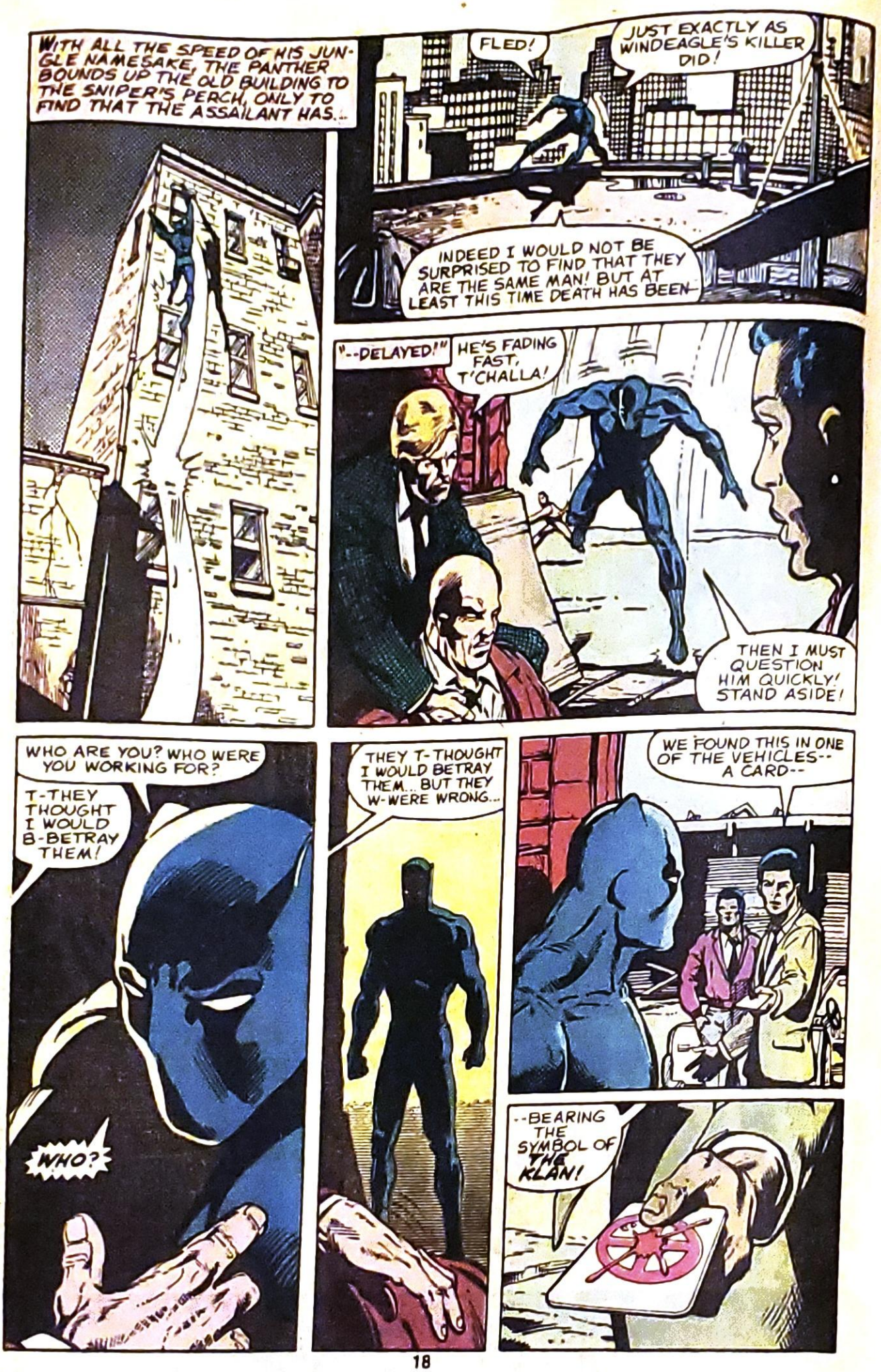
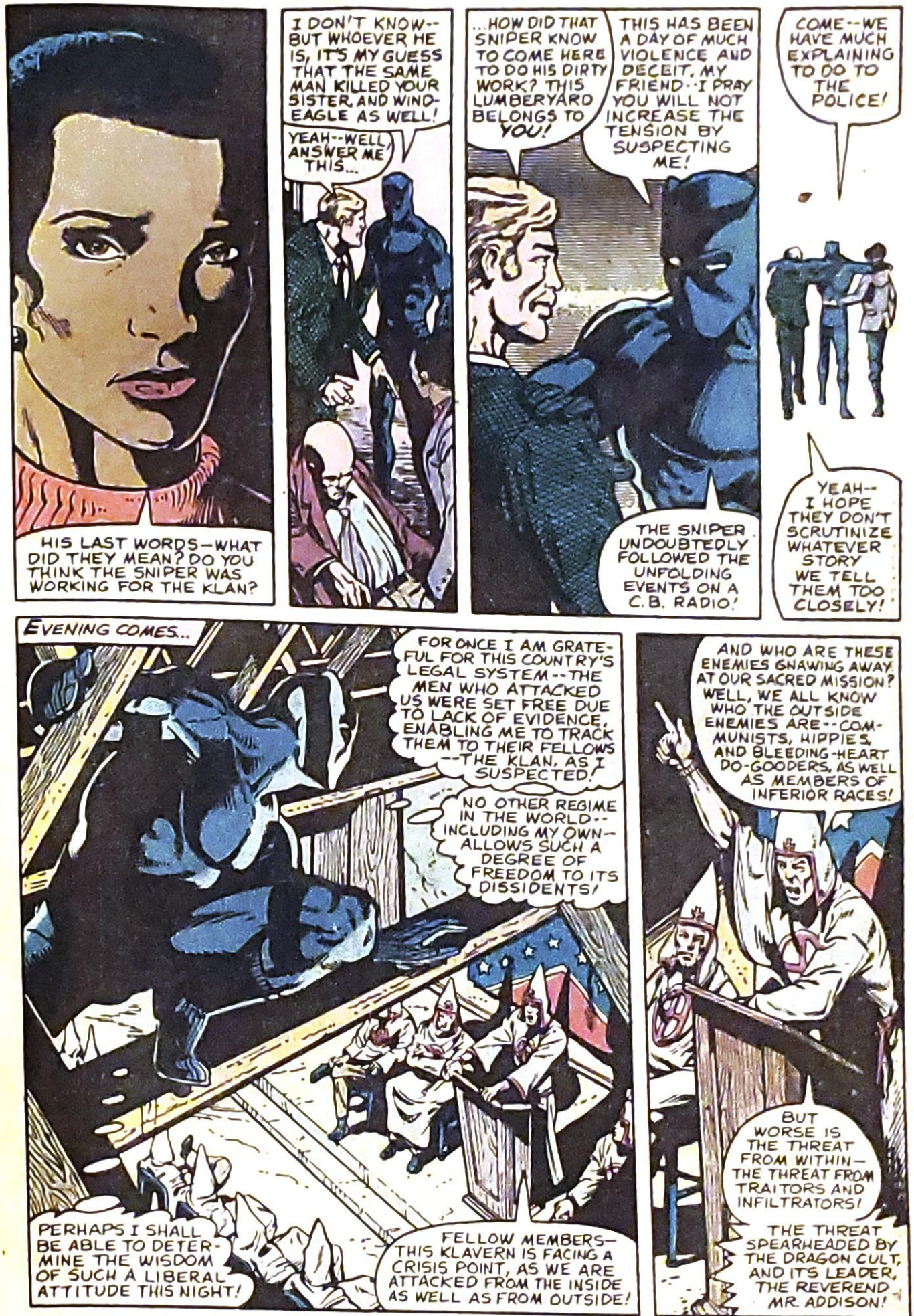

WITH ALL THE SPEED OF HIS JUNGLE NAMESAKE, THE PANTHER BOUNDS UP THE OLD BUILDING TO THE SNIPER'S PERCH, ONLY TO FIND THAT THE ASSAILANT HAS...
FLED!
JUST EXACTLY AS WINDEAGLE'S KILLER DID!
INDEED I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THEY ARE THE SAME MAN! BUT AT LEAST THIS TIME DEATH HAS BEEN--
"--DELAYED!"
HE'S FADING FAST, T'CHALLA!
THEN I MUST QUESTION HIM QUICKLY! STAND ASIDE!
WHO ARE YOU? WHO WERE YOU WORKING FOR?
T-THEY THOUGHT I WOULD B-BETRAY THEM!
WHO?
THEY T-THOUGHT I WOULD BETRAY THEM... BUT THEY W-WERE WRONG...
WE FOUND THIS IN ONE OF THE VEHICLES-- A CARD--
--BEARING THE SYMBOL OF THE KLAN!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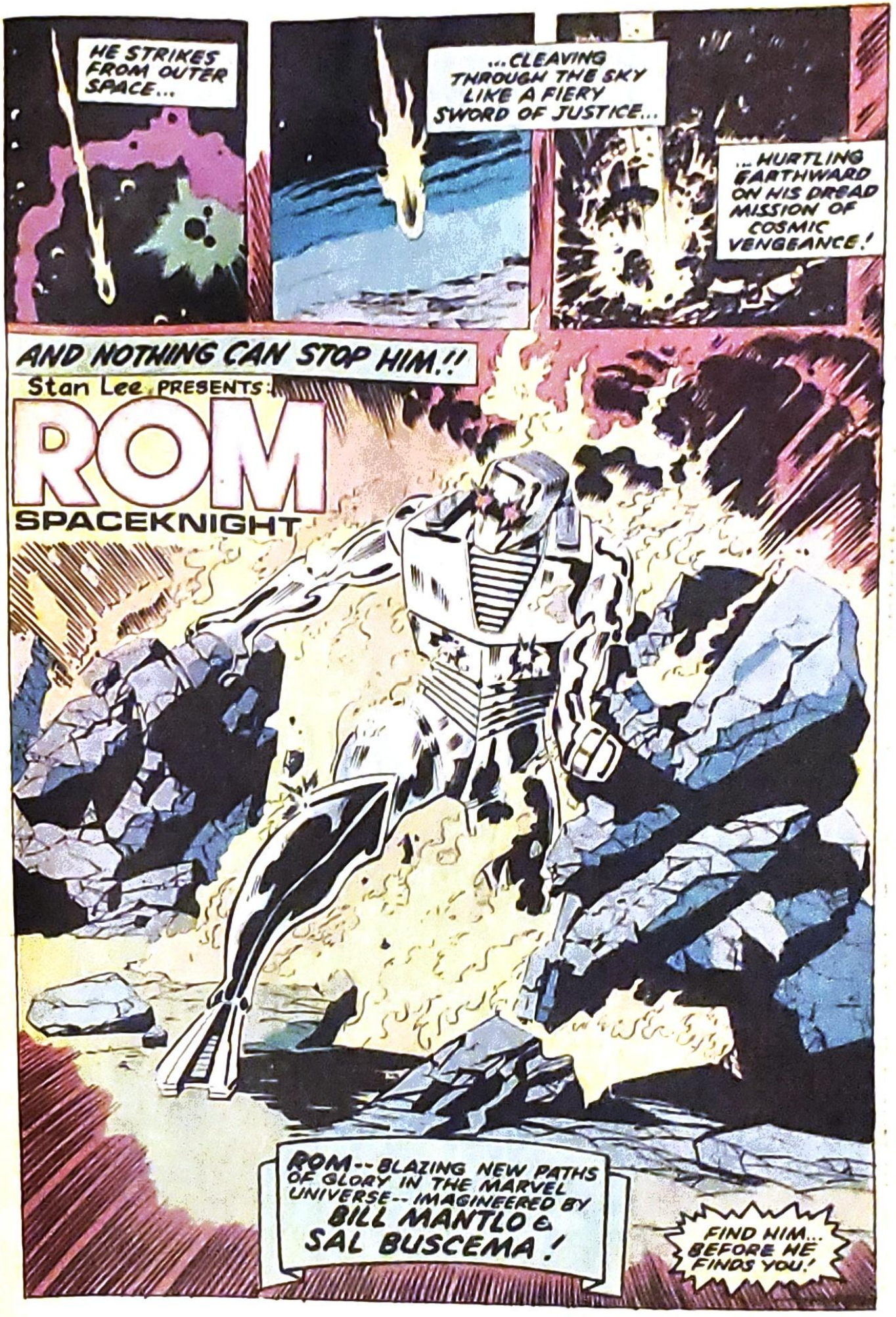
HE STRIKES FROM OUTER SPACE...
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...HURTLING EARTHWARD ON HIS DREAD MISSION OF COSMIC VENGEANCE!
AND NOTHING CAN STOP HIM!!
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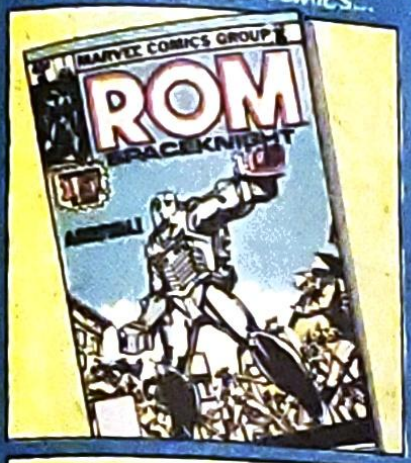
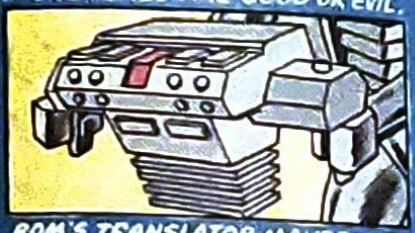


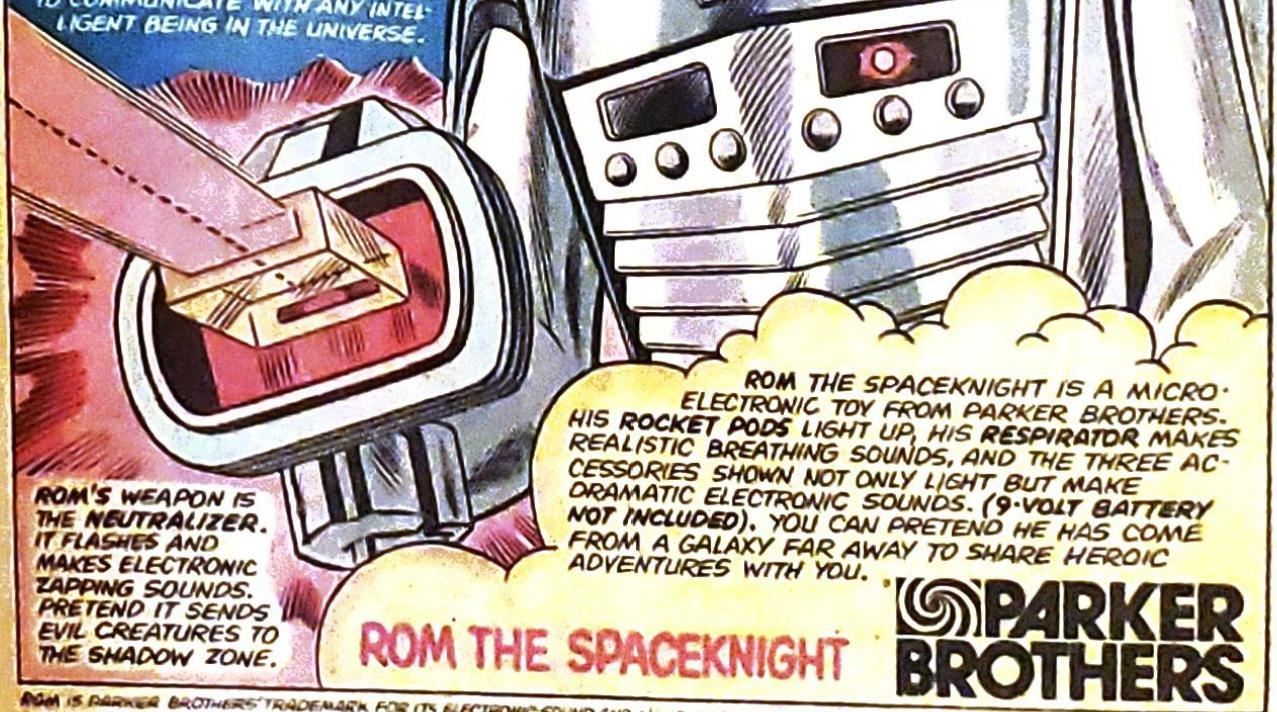
ROM™

HAS COME...EVIL IS ON THE RUN!

ROM'S ENERGY ANALYZER LIGHTS UP BRIGHT RED AND MAKES STRANGE ELECTRONIC SOUNDS. PRETEND IT ALLOWS ROM TO SEE IF CREATURES ARE GOOD OR EVIL.



ROM'S TRANSLATOR MAKES EERY ELECTRONIC SOUNDS AND LIGHTS UP. IMAGINE ROM HAS THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANY INTELLIGENT BEING IN THE UNIVERSE.



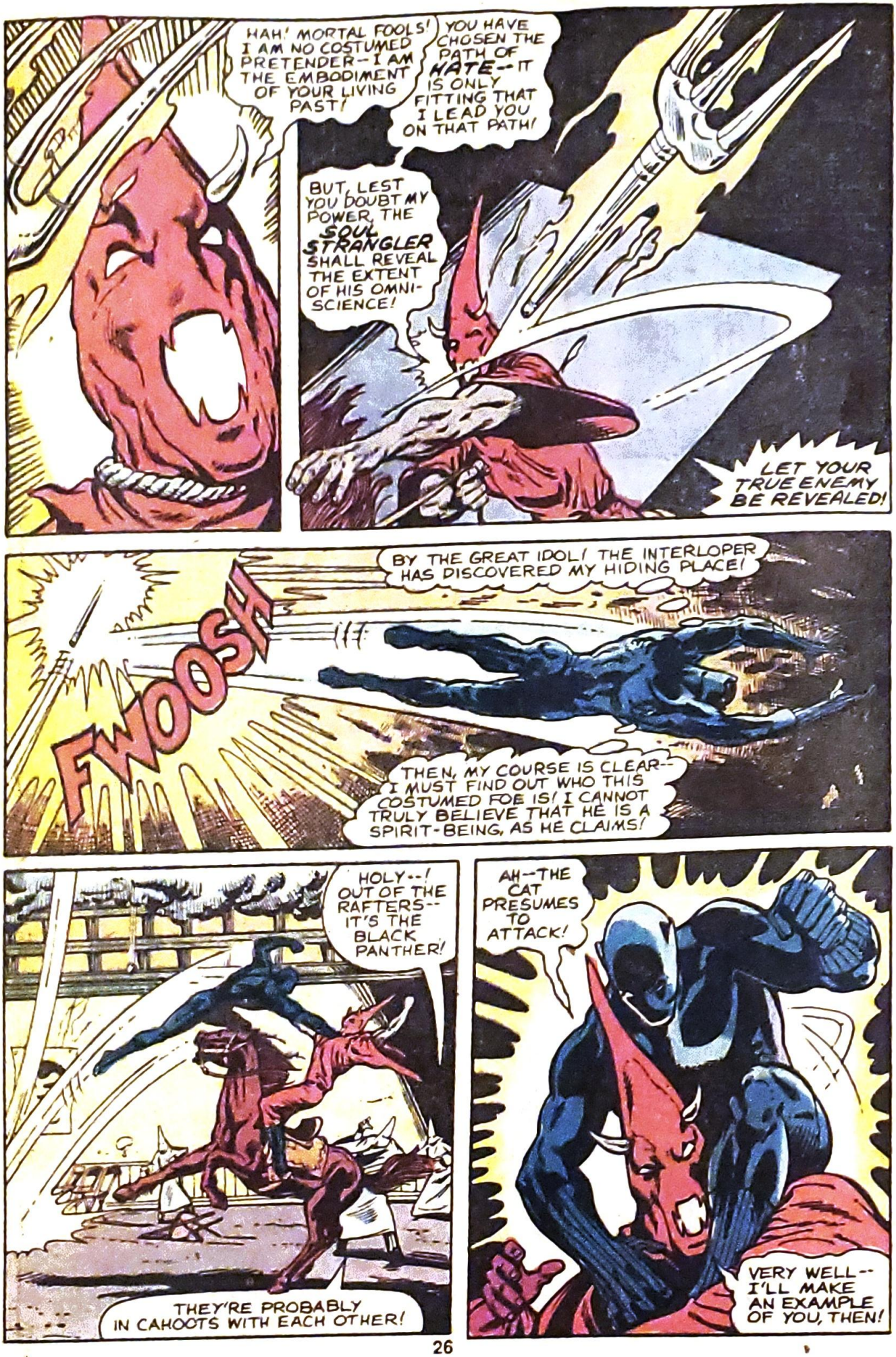
ROM'S WEAPON IS THE NEUTRALIZER. IT FLASHES AND MAKES ELECTRONIC ZAPPING SOUNDS. PRETEND IT SENDS EVIL CREATURES TO THE SHADOW ZONE.

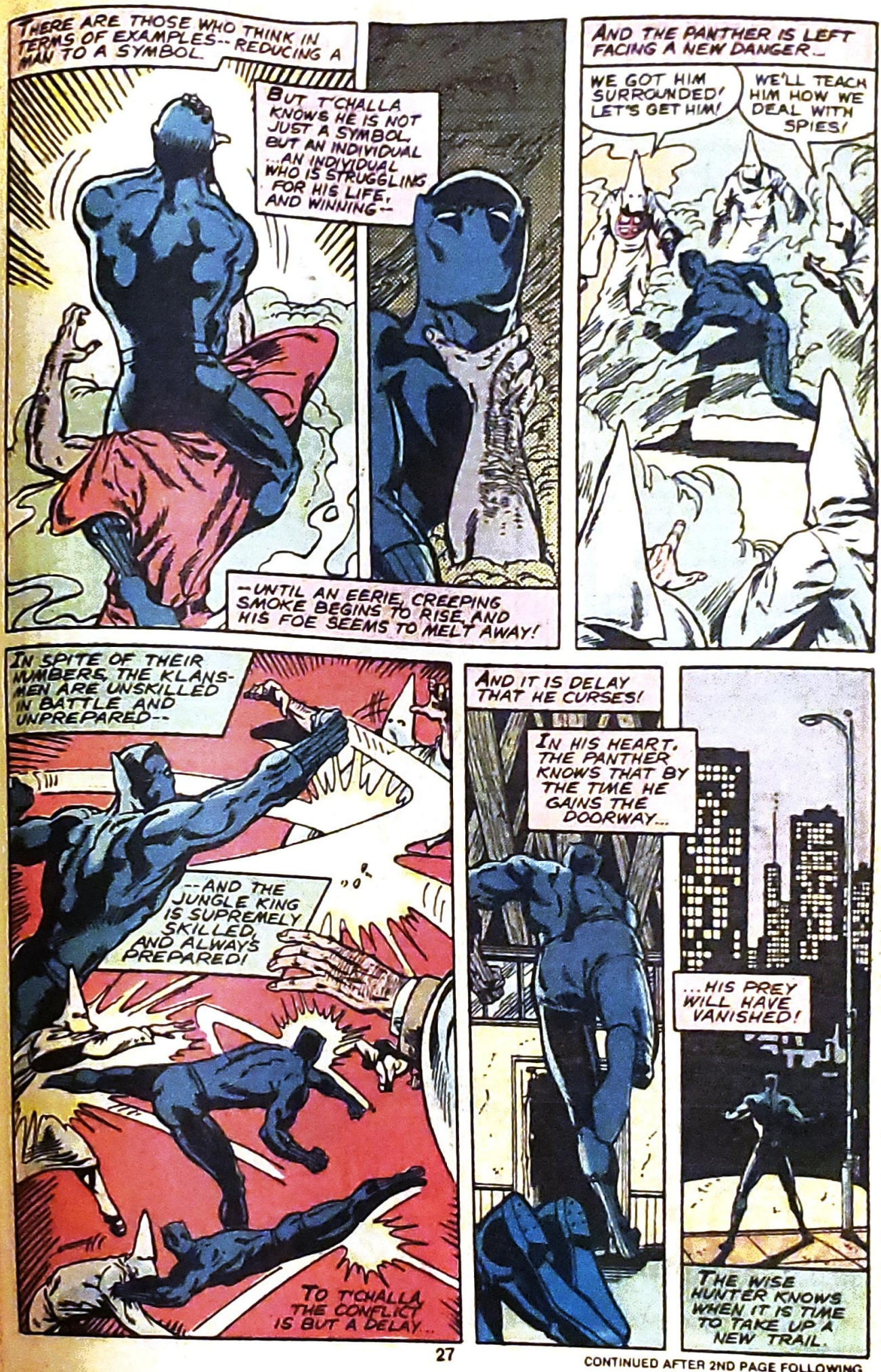
ROM THE SPACEKNIGHT IS A MICRO-ELECTRONIC TOY FROM PARKER BROTHERS. HIS ROCKET PODS LIGHT UP, HIS RESPIRATOR MAKES REALISTIC BREATHING SOUNDS, AND THE THREE ACCESSORIES SHOWN NOT ONLY LIGHT BUT MAKE DRAMATIC ELECTRONIC SOUNDS. (9-VOLT BATTERY NOT INCLUDED). YOU CAN PRETEND HE HAS COME FROM A GALAXY FAR AWAY TO SHARE HEROIC ADVENTURES WITH YOU.

ROM THE SPACEKNIGHT

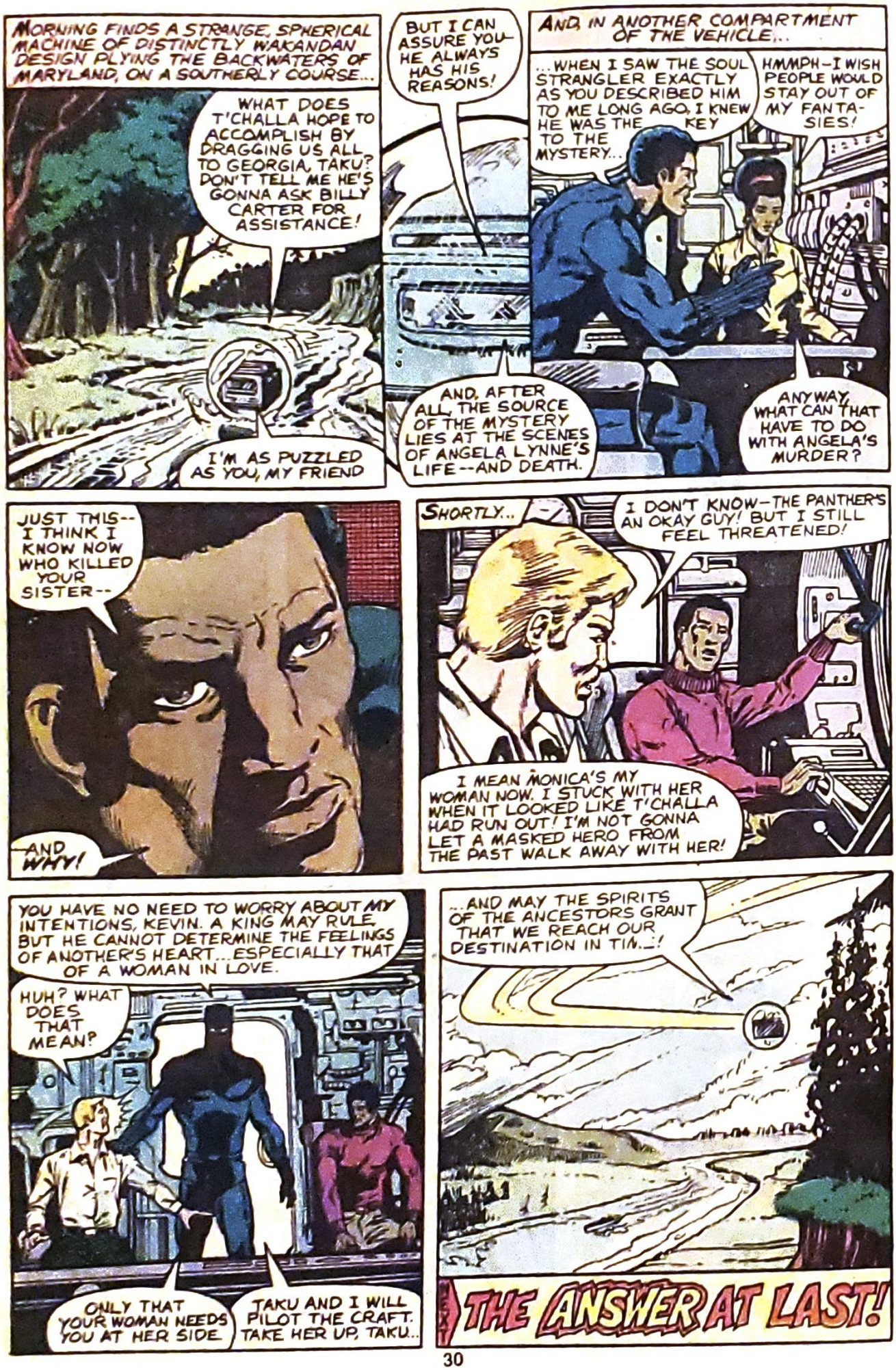
PARKER BROTHERS

ROM IS PARKER BROTHERS' TRADEMARK FOR ITS ELECTRONIC SOUND AND LIGHT EFFECT TOY ACTION FIGURE. ©1979 PARKER BROTHERS, BEVERLY MASS 01915


HAH! MORTAL FOOLS! I AM NO COSTUMED PRETENDER—I AM THE EMBODIMENT OF YOUR LIVING PAST!
YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE PATH OF HATE—IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT I LEAD YOU ON THAT PATH!
BUT, LEST YOU DOUBT MY POWER, THE SOUL STRANGLER SHALL REVEAL THE EXTENT OF HIS OMNI-SCIENCE!
LET YOUR TRUE ENEMY BE REVEALED!
FWOOSH!
BY THE GREAT IDOL! THE INTERLOPER HAS DISCOVERED MY HIDING PLACE!
THEN, MY COURSE IS CLEAR—I MUST FIND OUT WHO THIS COSTUMED FOE IS! I CANNOT TRULY BELIEVE THAT HE IS A SPIRIT-BEING, AS HE CLAIMS!
HOLY—! OUT OF THE RAFTERS—IT'S THE BLACK PANTHER!
THEY'RE PROBABLY IN CAHOOTS WITH EACH OTHER!
AH—THE CAT PRESUMES TO ATTACK!
VERY WELL—I'LL MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOU, THEN!


THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK IN TERMS OF EXAMPLES-- REDUCING A MAN TO A SYMBOL
BUT T'CHALLA KNOWS HE IS NOT JUST A SYMBOL, BUT AN INDIVIDUAL ...AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS STRUGGLING FOR HIS LIFE! AND WINNING--
--UNTIL AN EERIE, CREEPING SMOKE BEGINS TO RISE AND HIS FOE SEEMS TO MELT AWAY!
AND THE PANTHER IS LEFT FACING A NEW DANGER--
WE GOT HIM SURROUNDED! LET'S GET HIM!
WE'LL TEACH HIM HOW WE DEAL WITH SPIES!
IN SPITE OF THEIR NUMBERS, THE KLANSMEN ARE UNSKILLED IN BATTLE AND UNPREPARED--
--AND THE JUNGLE KING IS SUPREMELY SKILLED, AND ALWAYS PREPARED!
TO T'CHALLA THE CONFLICT IS BUT A DELAY...
AND IT IS DELAY THAT HE CURSES!
IN HIS HEART, THE PANTHER KNOWS THAT BY THE TIME HE GAINS THE DOORWAY...
...HIS PREY WILL HAVE VANISHED!
THE WISE HUNTER KNOWS WHEN IT IS TIME TO TAKE UP A NEW TRAIL.

CONTINUED AFTER 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING


MORNING FINDS A STRANGE, SPHERICAL MACHINE OF DISTINCTLY WAKANDAN DESIGN PLYING THE BACKWATERS OF MARYLAND, ON A SOUTHERLY COURSE...
WHAT DOES T'CHALLA HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH BY DRAGGING US ALL TO GEORGIA, TAKU? DON'T TELL ME HE'S GONNA ASK BILLY CARTER FOR ASSISTANCE!
I'M AS PUZZLED AS YOU, MY FRIEND
BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU HE ALWAYS HAS HIS REASONS!
AND, AFTER ALL, THE SOURCE OF THE MYSTERY LIES AT THE SCENES OF ANGELA LYNNE'S LIFE--AND DEATH.
AND, IN ANOTHER COMPARTMENT OF THE VEHICLE...
...WHEN I SAW THE SOUL STRANGLER EXACTLY AS YOU DESCRIBED HIM TO ME LONG AGO, I KNEW HE WAS THE KEY TO THE MYSTERY...
HMMPH--I WISH PEOPLE WOULD STAY OUT OF MY FANTASIES!
ANYWAY, WHAT CAN THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANGELA'S MURDER?
JUST THIS--I THINK I KNOW NOW WHO KILLED YOUR SISTER--
--AND WHY!
SHORTLY...
I DON'T KNOW--THE PANTHER'S AN OKAY GUY! BUT I STILL FEEL THREATENED!
I MEAN MONICA'S MY WOMAN NOW. I STUCK WITH HER WHEN IT LOOKED LIKE T'CHALLA HAD RUN OUT! I'M NOT GONNA LET A MASKED HERO FROM THE PAST WALK AWAY WITH HER!
YOU HAVE NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MY INTENTIONS, KEVIN. A KING MAY RULE BUT HE CANNOT DETERMINE THE FEELINGS OF ANOTHER'S HEART...ESPECIALLY THAT OF A WOMAN IN LOVE.
HUH? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ONLY THAT YOUR WOMAN NEEDS YOU AT HER SIDE
TAKU AND I WILL PILOT THE CRAFT. TAKE HER UP, TAKU..
...AND MAY THE SPIRITS OF THE ANCESTORS GRANT THAT WE REACH OUR DESTINATION IN TIM...!
THE ANSWER AT LAST!

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
JIM SALICRUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Mark, Sal, and Dave:

Well, I certainly must say that the Falcon's appearance in MARVEL PREMIERE #49 took me by surpise. Just like the Spanish Inquisition, it was one of those things that I never expected.

Be that as it may, MP #49's "Sound of the Silencer" wasn't a bad little yarn. Oh, there was nothing in particular that made it a FALCON story... rather than a CAP story or a SPIDER-MAN story or a MR. POTATO-HEAD story... but then, I'm not really so sure just what a purely FALCON story would be. And it *was* different to see Sam Wilson involved in what was basically a standard meat-&-potatoes, no-frills detective yarn... even if I did figure out the clues early on in the story.

It seems to me that I've heard of Mark Evanier before, but I can't for the life of me remember where. If this is Mark's first comics story, I have to say that he shows great possibilities. And if it's not... well, what do you want from someone who lives in a cornfield? Dave Simons — another unknown out in this neck of the woods — likewise did a very nice job of finishing Sal Buscema's breakdowns, and that's always appreciated.

Louis Fetters
RFD #1
Plainfield, IN 46168

Mark Evanier is no stranger to comics, Lou. For the past several years he's been putting words in the mouths of talking animals — among other things — but lately he's been a lot busier in the slightly more bizarre world of television.

And you can pick up on the further work of Dave Simons in the one-and-only HOWARD THE DUCK magazine! Miss it not!

Dear Marvel,

I sit here reading my copy of MARVEL PREMIERE #49, trying desperately to find something good to say about it. It is more than slightly difficult.

The lack of originality in the plot was the first thing that got to me. This foreign ambassador shtick has been done before... and redone... and, in this case, overdone. Also, Mark's characterization left a lot to be desired. Everyone, especially the Falcon, seemed exceedingly one-dimensional and feelingless... as if they knew how bad the story was and decided not to care about what was going on.

Of course, Mr. Evanier is not totally to blame. For some reason, no one at Marvel has ever really chosen to develop the Falcon's character. Maybe that's why he's never had a real solo before. Even now, in what is billed as "his own full-length adventure," you felt obligated to bring in Captain America for a cameo appearance.

Then there's the art. I've never been that wild about Sal Buscema's art. And here we have the same old stiff, open-mouthed people... smiling, walking, shouting, and recoiling in fear. Sure, Sal's a pretty good storyteller, but mere storytelling alone does not a story make. By the same token, Dave Simons appers to be a pretty good stylistic inker, but I wonder about how well he works over Sal's breakdowns.

So, in final consideration, I can only suggest that you do one of two things: either kill the Falcon, or try again.

Scott L. Oaken
225 126th Street
New York, NY 10012

People:

MARVEL PREMIERE #49 was a pretty good issue, all-in-all. Mark Evanier has done what few comics writers today can do — fit a story into just seventeen pages. I must salute Mark for his composition, which was amply supported by the art.

The who-done-it angle was not, of course, completely original. And I feel the story depended a bit too much on Captain America's association with neo-fascist super-villains. In fact, if (as implied) Captain America had shown up at the reception at the Bodavian Embassy, chances are that the entire murder scheme would never have gotten off the ground.

It's a little hard for me to believe that the spindly, well-bred Count Barza decked the Falcon, and then made a fool out of him on three separate occasions. Also, the Captain America I've come to know and love would not have gone on with his daily constitutional while his former partner was all torn up over a case.

What's really disappointing, though, is that — as always — Marvel writers seem to have touble writing black characters. Contrary to popular opinion, Black people do not run around making incredibly cute and witty remarks to each other. Moreover, the Falcon, as an unofficial representative of his country — and as a black man — would never insult a member of the Bodavian consulate with that quip about Redwing's fetish for dead rat *hors d'oeuvres*. I mean, by the end of the story, I expected Falc to don a wide grin and shuffle off into the sunset.

Sal Buscema's art was also pretty good this issue. Sal is an excellent artist, but he always seems to get saddled with some lesser talent as an inker. This issue, fortunately, was not the case. Dave Simons' inks were very good. The coloring was also exceptional, and the lettering was fine. In fact, my only criticism with the art was the presence of one of the most ineptly drawn J. Jonah Jamesons in the history of comics.

The cover was drawn well, but it was — in my opinion — insulting to blacks... uh, make that *us* blacks. Al Milgrom, in a fine attempt to create a ghetto atmosphere, ended up placing insultingly familiar stereotypes, such as the fat lady with the groceries, the jive-talking wino being hassled by the cops, and the mountainous supply of garbage — in front of the vegetable store. C'mon, Al, give me a break! Not all of Harlem is like that... and not all blacks live in Harlem. I guess that white Middle-America couldnt relate to the Falcon sweeping down over Scarsdale.

James Owsley
New York, NY

Oh, we don't know about *that*, Jim. However, having the Falcon buzz Scarsdale on the cover would have related a lot less to the story... part of which *did* take place in Harlem (that is where Sam Wilson lives, after all). And since when are fat ladies, winos, and garbage considered black stereotypes? It seems to us that if you changed the race of the people on that cover — and changed the street by one hundred city blocks — you'd have a street scene right out of the garment district. Would that make it insulting to whites?

(Oh, by the way, Frank Miller and Klaus Janson drew that cover... not Al Milgrom!)

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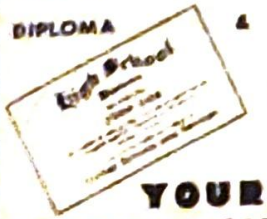

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